



# PRESS RELEASE

## Revision of Nurse Practice Act Signed into Law

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Minneapolis, MN.** (May 3, 2013) Governor Mark Dayton has signed into law a revision of the Nurse Practice Act. The Nurse Practice Act defines the scope of practice for every nurse in the state of Minnesota.

The last major change to the Nurse Practice Act impacted the practice of Registered Nurses, and occurred in 1974. The language of the Nurse Practice Act defining the practice of Licensed Practical Nurses had not changed since 1959. In 2011, the Institute of Medicine released a report titled “The Future of Nursing.” A key message of this report is nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training. A call was issued to remove barriers to nursing practice to meet the challenges of an evolving health care system and the needs of patients, families, and communities today.

While “The Future of Nursing” report was an important impetus for moving forward with updated language for the Nurse Practice Act, the Board of Nursing had been working with nurses and professional nursing organizations across the state since 2000 to identify the contexts in which nurses practiced and areas in which a potential change to statutory language could clarify the scope of practice for both Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses.

In 2012, over 30 public Listening Sessions and meetings with stakeholders were conducted across the state to review, discuss, and provide input for proposed statutory language. Over 830 people attended these sessions and/or submitted comments that were used by the Board of Nursing to draft statutory language.

“The role of the Board of Nursing is to protect the public,” stated Board President Deborah Haagenon. “I believe this new language supports that goal by clarifying the roles of RNs and LPNs. It provides clarification for nurses and employers. Most importantly, it clarifies nursing roles for the public who are the consumers of nursing care.”

The revised Nurse Practice Act will be effective August 1, 2013.

## MISSION

**The mission of the Minnesota Board of Nursing is to protect the public’s health and safety by providing reasonable assurance that the people who practice nursing are competent, ethical practitioners with the necessary knowledge and skills appropriate to their title and role.**